

Application No.: 09/416,414

Docket No.: NY-VIR 201-US  
APR 30 2002  
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Dated: May 23, 2002

Signature: *Fani Malikouzakis*  
(Fani Malikouzakis)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Inderpal S. BHANDARI et al.

Application No.: 09/416,414

Group Art Unit: 3624

Filed: October 12, 1999

Examiner: Ella Colbert

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FINDING  
HIDDEN PATTERNS IN THE CONTEXT OF  
QUERYING APPLICATIONS

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JUN 06 2002  
**GROUP 3600**

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed April 23, 2002, (Paper No. 7), applicant hereby elects Group II, claims 29-96 for continued examination, with traverse.

The Examiner has required restriction between claims 1-28 and claims 29-96 allegedly that the inventions are distinct, each from the other. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Restriction Requirement on the grounds that the claims of Group I and Group II are related and describe essentially identical methods and apparatuses for finding the great-valued and/or least-valued strings among the related strings. As recited in independent claims 29 and 47, and similarly in independent claims 76, 93, and 96, the "query consist[s] of at least one computation and an attribute-valued string having one or more elements." It is urged that Groups I-II are at best, different embodiments of a single inventive concept for which a single patent should issue. These Groups do not constitute distinct inventions such as to require that

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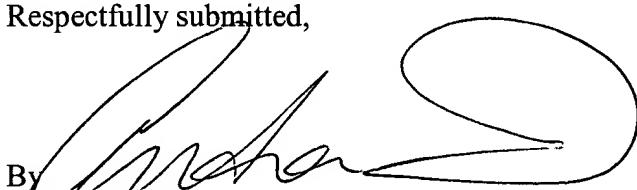
their subject matter be prosecuted in separate application. Moreover, there is not extra burden on the Patent and Trademark Office to examine the allegedly separate invention in a single patent application.

In view of the above comments, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement and allow applicants to prosecute the entire application in the present case. In the event the restriction requirement is made final, applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter.

An early and favorable action on the merits of this application is solicited.

Dated: May 23, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

By C. Andrew Im

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